

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 3-9, and cancel claims 2 and 10 as follows.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A choke with integral wad stopper for use with an existing shotgun, comprising:

a hollow tubular member ~~cylinder~~ having a coupling at one end for concentrically securing it said tubular member to a ~~muzzle end of said~~ shotgun, said tubular member ~~cylinder~~ being defined by an internal channel having a stepwise taper ~~an increasingly smaller average internal diameter~~ running away from the coupling end to constrict shotgun pellets passing there through;

said stepwise taper being further defined by a plurality of raised annular projections ~~step-projections~~ spaced evenly along at least two-thirds a length of said tapered channel to retard and separate wadding from behind said shotgun pellets while passing through said tubular member ~~cylinder~~.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A choke according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of raised annular step-projections comprises a sharp edge disposed toward said coupling end of said tubular member ~~cylinder~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A choke according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of raised annular step-projections comprises a rounded edge disposed toward said coupling end of said tubular member cylinder.

5. (Currently Amended) A choke according to claim 1, wherein each internal step-projection along said cylinder defines a smaller internal diameter within said channel cylinder.

6. (Currently Amended) A choke according to claim 5, further comprising a ramp transition between successive internal step-projections along said channel cylinder.

7. (Currently Amended) The choke according to claim 1, wherein said coupling further comprises an external series of screw threads on said hollow tubular member for screw-insertion to the muzzle end of said existing shotgun.

8. (Currently Amended) The choke according to claim 9, further comprising a textured area along an outer surface of said tubular member cylinder to improve gripping while screwing it said tubular member into the muzzle end of said existing shotgun.

9. (Currently Amended) A choke according to claim 1, wherein each of said raised annular step-projections further comprise a ramp transition to a next successive step-projection, thereby defining a constricting stepwise taper running away from said coupling end of the tubular member cylinder.

*Application of: Boyer, Frank*

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10.(Canceled)